



SR0098

LRB098 07300 JDS 37363 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Lake Michigan Car Ferry, Inc., owns and operates the S.S. *Badger*, a 410-foot steam-powered car ferry that sails between Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Ludington, Michigan, approximately 134 days each year; and

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WHEREAS, Every day that the S.S. *Badger* operates it dumps into Lake Michigan nearly 4 tons of coal ash, which contains arsenic, lead, mercury, and other metals that can damage aquatic ecosystems; and

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WHEREAS, The quantity of that discharge exceeds the combined coal, iron, and limestone discharges of the 125 other large freighters operating in the Great Lakes; and

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WHEREAS, The S.S. *Badger* currently operates under a 2008 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit that authorizes it to continue dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan until December 19, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, During the drafting of the 2008 Vessel General Permit, Lake Michigan Car Ferry, Inc., indicated that it would take steps to eliminate its coal ash discharges before December 19, 2012; and

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1 WHEREAS, Lake Michigan Car Ferry, Inc., did not take those
2 actions and has subsequently sought approval from the United
3 States Environmental Protection Agency to continue dumping
4 this hazardous material into Lake Michigan for another four
5 years under an individual NPDES permit; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the
8 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection
9 Agency to protect the aquatic ecosystems that sustain life in
10 and around Lake Michigan by denying Lake Michigan Car Ferry's
11 NPDES individual permit application for the S.S. Badger; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 delivered to the Administrator of the United States
15 Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of Region 5
16 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the
17 Illinois Congressional delegation.